

November 7, 2010

I am devastated at the idea that you are attempting to approve the Adam Walsh Act. This legislation will invoke further devastation for the sex offenders whose lives already suffer great devastation as a result of the Sex Offender Registry. This punitive act promises to wreck further havoc with not only the offender but the offender's family. Here are some concerns about the AWA and the increased information that is required on the registry:

- It will become impossible for my grandchildren to even have friends either inside or outside of school or have any sort of normal childhood.
- Attending church will become increasingly difficult for the family as a whole, a place of healing for many.
- Getting a job will become nearly impossible for sex offenders.
- This will increase the likelihood that they will be incarcerated again through no real fault of their own.
 - The frustration of not being able to get on with their lives could cause a host of potential problems including suicide.
- Offenders and their families could be in imminent danger due to other people's anger toward them.

I am a teacher in the public schools in Michigan and am currently working on my second master's degree. I am devastated to even imagine that my son doesn't have a chance in life when he is only 25 years old not to mention the damage this system will perpetrate on my grandchildren who are really innocent victims. I am devastated to believe the system that is supposed to improve our lives will cost the state even more money, make it impossible for human beings to prove they can do the right thing, and destroy the lives of generations to come.

There are more than 45,000 SO on the list today and that number is growing. The SO list as well as all of the laws do not seem to be impacting this. There are immediate dollars at risk but in the long run the AWA will cost the state so much more in increased prison dollars and more money diverted from education. This alone should give any legislator pause when considering this Act.

I am nearly 60 years old and I will never see my son succeed, I will watch my grandchildren be hurt and destroyed because they will not be allowed to move on. If we continue this thinking, I will never be able to rest knowing that we have moved forward and that recovery is possible. I beg of you to believe in the therapy that these SO are participating in and allow them to move forward in their lives. Reject the AWA. It is time to stand up for what is right. Dollars would be more prudently spent making sure people know how to protect themselves and keep themselves safe.

Thank you for your attention

Denise